

REMARKS

The instant Application was filed on July 3, 2003. Claims 1, 30-34, and 36-56 remained at issue. In the most recent Office Action, claims 1, 30-33, 36, 38-42, 43, 44 and 46-56 were rejected. The Examiner noted allowable subject matter in claims 34, 37, 42, and 45. In view of the amendments to the claims and the discussion hereinafter, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and reexamination thereof is hereby requested.

The Office Action

The Office has rejected claims 1, 30-33, 36, 38-41, 43, 44 and 46-56 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,153,334 ('334) to Sakamoto et al.

The Office has objected to claims 34, 37, 42 and 45 as being allowable but dependent on a rejected base claim.

The Rejection and Objection

The Office has rejected claims claims 1, 30-33, 36, 38-41, 43, 44 and 46-56 and has objected to claims 34, 37, 42 and 45.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation allowable claim 42. Claim 42 has been cancelled. Allowable claims 34, 37 and 45 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 57, 58 and 59 respectively. Rejected claims 48-56 have been canceled. The rejections and objections are now moot and withdrawal thereof is earnestly solicited.

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Conclusion

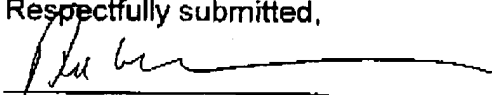
Claims 1, 30-34, 36-41, 43-47, and 57-59 remain at issue. In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicants submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request timely notice of allowance thereof.

Should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions which would place the instant application in better condition for allowance, Applicants earnestly request the Examiner to contact the undersigned.

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